

To Sarah Disraeli.

July 22.

The accounts from Maidstone continue as favorable as ever. Several of Hobarts' supporters have come over to me since his secession. I believe I am the only *new* candidate of our side who has not an opposition. So much for the 'maddest of all mad acts/ my uncle G-'s prescience, and B.E.L.'s unrivalled powers of encouragement! The nomination day is fixed for the 25th.²

On the 25th, however, Colonel Perronet Thompson, editor of the *Westminster Review*, and a well-known figure among the Radicals of the day, more adventurous than Robarts, allowed himself to be nominated. 'I hope,' said his proposer when he found occasion to mention Disraeli, 'that I pronounce his name aright.'³ Colonel Perronet Thompson,' retorted Disraeli in the 'opening sentences of his speech, 'I hope, as Mr. Ellis », said, that I pronounce his name aright.' Disraeli's ready wit and eloquence had made him a favourite with his side, though, as his popularity grew, the animosity / of his opponents increased in like proportion. On this occasion a hostile paper tell us, * the Blues opened the floodgates of their recriminating eloquence on the •degraded Disraeli, who winced beneath the cries of " Old clothes ! " " Shylock I " and various other complimentary epithets for nearly an hour.' Such are the amenities of electioneering.

To Sarah Disraeli.

MAIDSTONE,

July 27, 1837. 11 o'clock.

DEAREST,

Lewis 707
 Disraeli 616
 Colonel Thompson..... 412

The constituency nearly exhausted.

In haste, DIZZY.*

¹ George Basevi, a brother of Disraeli's mother.
 Another Miss Basevi, their sister, had married a Mr Lindo, and 'B.E.L.' was her

son, and therefore Disraeli's cousin.
²*Letters*, p. 115. It is about this time that the
familiar appellation
which is here used as signature, and which was
subsequently to become
so famous, begins to make its appearance.